



## David Lee Heiserman

July 11, 1940 - February 21, 2020

David Lee Heiserman, age 79 of Columbus, died Friday February 21, 2020 at Dublin Riverside Hospital. David was an educator, author, and visionary. David was a pioneer in robotics, authoring "Build your own working robot" (1976) and others. In total, he wrote over 40 books during the 70's and 80's. Diverse topics included TV video game design ('78), Radio Astronomy ('75) and Experiments in Four Dimensions ('83). His articles were equally as diverse, including Popular Electronics and in the Mid-1970's three weekly columns- Fishing, Astronomy, and Cooking. David taught math and electronics at Ohio Institute of Technology, Franklin University and Columbus State Community college during the 1970's and 80's. In 1997, he developed the internet's first free education website which has served over 20 million pages of free educational content to over 150 countries. David worked full time on [www.free-ed.net](http://www.free-ed.net) for over 20 years. David walked a spiritual path throughout his entire life, and among his fondest memories was his involvement in the ministry at World Harvest Church during the early 1990's. David was born on July 11, 1940 in Fostoria, Ohio to the late Leland and Maudine (Needles) Heiserman. He is preceded in death by his wife Judy. David is survived by his son Paul Heiserman, and his sister Gretchen Heiserman Tsantles, and his grandchildren Leland and Jacob. He served his country by serving on the flight line at The US Naval Air Station Key West. A Memorial Service with military honors will be held on Saturday February 29, 2020 at 3:00pm at the RUTHERFORD-CORBIN FUNERAL HOME, 515 High Street in Worthington.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to Cincinnati Children's CCEO Clinic, Nationwide Children's Behavioral Health, or to support the continued maintenance of [www.free-ed.net](http://www.free-ed.net) (via family) Condolences to [www.utherfordfuneralhome.com](http://www.utherfordfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering:

FEB **29**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home  
515 High Street  
Worthington, OH 43085  
(614) 885-4006  
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

## Memorial Service

FEB **29**. 3:00 PM (ET)

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# Tribute Wall

BJ

“ I am so sorry for your family's loss. Mr Heiserman was a big part of making me who I am. At 59, his writings still bring me joy, and I pray they always will. Godspeed Sir.

Bill Jones - March 14, 2025 at 03:28 PM

SH

“ As a 13-14 year-old kid growing up in a small town, I had to keep myself busy to stay out of trouble. Star Trek, an interest in Astronomy and electronics, and some hobbies helped me do so. I must have read 'Build Your Own Working Robot" 100 times as a teenager, and dreamed of building Rodney someday. While I never fulfilled that dream, I occasionally get the urge to dig that book out and read it again. Now almost 60, perhaps I'll get to building Rodney before I can't. Thanks DLH for a core memory that sticks with me to this day.

Scott Harrison - June 21, 2023 at 11:09 PM

AW

“ "How to build your own self-programming robot" was a really important book for me growing up. Bought it from the Maplin catalogue in the 80s, ended up writing a virtual environment version of Rodney in BBC BASIC. Ultimately led to a Ph.D. in connectionism in psychology in 1998, and a 25-year research career since. - Prof. Andy Wills, [andywills.info](http://andywills.info)

Andy Wills - May 02, 2023 at 11:35 AM



“ David Lee Heiserman

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *David Heiserman changed my life. If it hadn't been for him and his book "How to Build Your Own Self-Programming Robot," my life would be so different. Below find the link to an article I wrote six years ago. I am currently writing a book entitled "Homebrewed Robots!" and Rodney Jr. will be part of it.*

*Rodney Junior: Smarter than the Average Robot*  
<https://camppeavy.com/articles/MachineIntelligence.pdf>

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**Camp Peavy** - August 14, 2021 at 03:04 PM

JM

“ *Gretchen, Paul and family. I am so sorry to hear of Dave's passing. He and I had lunch a couple of years ago and it was so good to catch up with him. He was a good guy. He was such an accomplished man and touched many lives for the better. Your memories will keep him forever in you hearts. We were facebook friends and shared our good memories of growing up in Fostoria. My prayers to all.*

*Jan (Clinger) McCuen*

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**Jan McCuen** - February 26, 2020 at 08:16 PM